

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is pending in this application. Claim 17 is incorporated into Claim 10 and is thus canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. 6,416,904 (Reimers) in view of U.S. 6,027,835 (Fukumura); and Claim 17 was objected to but was otherwise indicated as allowable.

As noted above, Claim 10 is amended to incorporate Claim 17. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted amended Claim 10 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the examiner disagree, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues. Otherwise, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

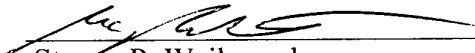
Respectfully submitted,

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